



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

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Ref: 8EPR-SR

December 7, 2007

Mr. Dana Wolfe  
Health and Safety Manager  
Bonneville Power Administration  
East 2410 Hawthorne Road  
Mead, WA 99021

Dear Dana:

The Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (EPA) received your October 24, 2007 request for EPA to allow open access to the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) high voltage transmission line right of way (ROW) located near the former vermiculite mine in Libby, Montana. BPA requested open access to the ROW via Rainy Creek Road.

As you know, the area surrounding the former vermiculite mine, including Rainy Creek Road, has been designated as "Operable Unit 3 (OU3)" of the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site. A remedial investigation /feasibility study for OU3 began in September 2007 in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act or Superfund.

Access to Rainy Creek Road (one entrance to BPA's ROW) is currently controlled by EPA and its contractors in accordance with the "Final Disposal Operations Plan for the Former W.R. Grace Mine" dated June 2005. Under that plan, Rainy Creek Road is closed to all vehicles and people not directly involved in the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site clean-up activities. Public access is restricted.

However, EPA agrees to provide BPA open access to Rainy Creek Road and its high voltage transmission ROW in order to facilitate BPA's maintenance of the high voltage transmission line. Access will be provided by installing two locks on the existing gate at Rainy Creek Road (one lock on each side of the road) allowing BPA and EPA and its contractors to have separate access. We also agree that BPA's maintenance activities should be conducted in accordance with BPA's health and safety requirements and we understand that BPA has a Health and Safety Plan that covers their maintenance activities.

EPA requests that you continue to notify us of any BPA activities within the restricted area and that your crews keep a copy of the BPA Health and Safety Plan and this letter in their vehicles at all times while they are working in that area. Please notify the following people of BPA activities:

**Bonnie Lavelle, EPA:** lavelle.bonita@epa.gov

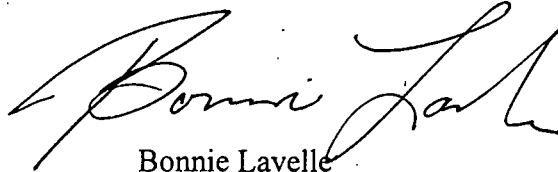
**Mike Cirian, EPA:** cirian.mike@epa.gov

**Catherine LeCours, MDEQ:** clecours@mt.gov

**Courtney Zamora, Volpe:** courtney.zamora@volpe.dot.gov

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at (303)312-6579.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Lavelle  
Remedial Project Manager  
Libby Asbestos Site, OU3

cc: Mike Cirian, EPA  
Catherine LeCours, MDEQ  
Courtney Zamora, Volpe

